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## Monitor Newsletter January 26, 2004

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# BGSU Monitor

JAN. 26, 2004

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## New alliance helps women and minorities attain careers in math and science

Bowling Green State University has joined a consortium of 15 Ohio universities and state agencies committed to increasing the number of minority students earning bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. With \$3.5 million in funding from the National Science Foundation, the Ohio Science and Engineering Alliance also ultimately hopes to increase the number of minority students going on to graduate school in these fields.

The alliance is one of 31 NSF-funded Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation nationwide, named in honor of the congressman from Cleveland. These alliances have been among the most successful efforts nationally at increasing the enrollment of under-represented groups in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or the STEM disciplines, according to Carter Gilmer, a chemistry faculty member and director of the Academic Investment in Math and Science (AIMS) program at the University.

The NSF grant provides \$700,000 annually for five years to support projects designed to enhance the recruitment, retention and graduation of minority students, and to encourage participants to attend graduate school. Funds will also be used to support such ventures as a statewide undergraduate research symposium and research-based internships at alliance institutions, as well as individual campus mentoring, tutoring and campus instruction.

Ohio State University President Karen Holbrook is principal investigator for the grant and will serve as chair of the alliance's governing board. Gilmer is BGSU's co-principal investigator. He worked with others across the state for about a year to design and write Ohio's proposal to participate in the NSF program. Programs that demonstrate success may be eligible for additional funding, he said.

One chief avenue by which BGSU seeks to boost minority enrollment in STEM disciplines is through AIMS. The four-year program begins with an intense, five-week residential summer program primarily stressing mathematics before students matriculate to the University. They then attend special, graded AIMS seminars the first year, participate in undergraduate research, are mentored by faculty and may receive preparation for the Graduate Record Exam and the Medical College Admission Test. AIMS students also receive a \$1,500 scholarship, which is renewable for three years with \$500 incremental increases.

Through the alliance and the grant, AIMS students may also receive undergraduate research stipends and their faculty advisers may receive materials stipends. BGSU undergraduates may also apply for summer stipends, along with housing allowances.

"Our goal is twofold: to instill in them the desire to go on to terminal degrees and to help them achieve the background in educational excellence necessary to do that," Gilmer said. "We want them to go on to work in academia and for NASA, IBM, Procter and Gamble—places where the targeted populations (minorities and women) have been under-represented in the past, particularly at the doctoral level."

AIMS seeks to help its students "see how to do it, so it's no longer just a pipe dream," he added.

Now in its third year, Bowling Green's AIMS program is showing success. This fall, seven students had perfect 4.0 GPAs, and 13 made the Dean's List.

One of those Dean's List students is Mario Baker, a sophomore from Cleveland. A physical

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therapy major, Baker lives in the Health Sciences Residential Community. He said the initial five-week summer session before his first semester was probably the most valuable part of an overall "very rewarding" experience.

"We had a different science class every day, along with math classes and computer science classes," he said. "We were exposed to about every area of science that's taught on campus. And on the weekends we had trips to businesses and hospitals to see how they use science and technology, so it gave us both the classroom and the actual workforce experience. For those people who didn't know what they wanted to focus on, it helped them find out what they'd like to do.

"But it helped most with the transition from high school to being a freshman. We got to know the professors and what to expect from them, so when the semester started we were prepared."

His feelings were echoed by freshman Gina Graham, a mathematics education major from Columbus. "AIMS is the reason I came to BGSU, she said. "It's definitely a great program. It gave me the chance to get to know 19 people plus faculty before I began school here, and to get to know the campus, so it helped me adjust to going to college."

She said the computer science class during the summer session was most helpful—it made my first computer science course so much easier."

Among the 40 AIMS scholars, 70 percent are minorities (African American or Hispanic). Women students have heavily dominated each cohort. Of this year's class of 20, six are men and 14 women.

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### Homeland security plans hurt rural areas: Karen Johnson-Webb

Homeland security policy in the wake of 9/11 has been crafted not only without due consideration of rural areas, but also sometimes to their detriment, according to a University researcher.

Take, for example, the impact of immigration policy changes on the supply of physicians in rural America, argues Karen Johnson-Webb, author of "A 'One Size Fits All' Policy? A Geographical Perspective on Rural Homeland Security," a study that examines what she calls "vitality and strategically important" areas that have been neglected in the homeland security discussion.

Previously, foreign graduates of American medical schools could start practicing while awaiting completion of paperwork for a student visa waiver. The waiver allows them to practice in a medically underserved rural area rather than return to their home country for two years, as required by their visas.

Now, foreign doctors need to have the waiver in hand before they can practice, a change that has "further crippled an already underserved rural health care system," says Johnson-Webb, of the geography department and the Center for Policy Analysis and Public Service.

Some rural areas found it hard enough to attract doctors before prospective candidates were given "more hoops to jump through," she says. Noting that the effects ripple through quality of life in the affected areas, she plans a survey of the 50 states to gauge the change's impact on the local level.

"This is critical to rural preparedness for terrorism," adds Johnson-Webb, who presented her preliminary findings last year at a meeting of the Association of American Geographers in New Orleans.

The concentration of agriculture and food producing activities alone is enough to warrant consideration of rural areas as strategically important, writes Johnson-Webb. Crucial infrastructure also located in rural areas—including dams, nuclear power plants, and

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portions of the nation's electrical grid and interstate highway systems—could be prime terrorist targets as well, she says.

Yet, the federal government has reduced budgetary allocations for agriculture and rural development to devote more funds to homeland security, with most of that money going to urban areas. In addition to leaving rural areas with less for programs that help keep them viable, the reductions demonstrate rural America's disadvantage in competitiveness for homeland security funding, Johnson-Webb points out. President Bush didn't offer any additional funding in his recent State of the Union speech—an omission that disappointed the BGSU researcher.

Another "serious and glaring issue," she says, is the unknown ownership of about 13,000 dams among the roughly 77,000 listed in the 1999 National Inventory of Dams. Also unknown, in the case of more than 1,200 dams, was the hazard level to infrastructure and population downstream should a breach occur. For more than 550 dams, neither the owner nor the hazard level was identified.

"These deficiencies must be corrected," according to Johnson-Webb. "A complete inventory of dams is essential to the development of effective national security planning."

She began wondering how vulnerabilities differed in urban and rural areas after attending Gov. Bob Taft's Ohio Homeland Security Summit in 2002.

"It's a multifaceted issue, so it doesn't hurt to be looking at it from different angles," she maintains. "We need to be considering as many scenarios as possible."

She points out that if a catastrophic terrorist attack occurs in an urban area, an exodus to rural areas is possible, further straining emergency response and health care capabilities in those areas. While applauding the "tenacity and commitment" of both urban and rural emergency responders, "a lot of them would be in over their heads."

"The first problem is funding, especially in rural areas, and if that means we have to take the pinch somewhere else, that's what it means," says Johnson-Webb, who also advocates increased policy emphasis on Canadian border security, including coordination with Indian tribes to provide more patrols of tribal lands on the border.

Homeland security is "not going to get done the way it needs to get done without the funding," she continues. "The money is there for whatever the president or powers that be want it to be there."

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### **BGSU admissions director honored as 'patriotic employer'**

A national organization has recognized Gary Swegan, director of admissions, for his support of a staff member who was called to active military duty last fall.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) cited Swegan as a "patriotic employer" for "supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force."

Swegan's nominator was Susan Macias, a BGSU admissions counselor and a sergeant in the Army Reserve's 350th Psychological Operations Company, based in Parma.

Macias, who was called up in September and is serving in Bosnia, noted in her nomination that Swegan was supportive of her necessary training missions and duty, and during the mobilization process for her mission.

Swegan, one of seven employers in Bowling Green honored by ESGR in 2003, said the recognition rightfully belongs to the entire admissions office and BGSU.

"The University's support for employees called to serve their country makes it easy for

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managers to be supportive," he said. "Staff in the Office of Admissions who have assumed new duties in Susan's absence, and those responsible for filling the resulting short-term vacancy, are the ones who share in this honor."

The office, he added, is proud of Macias's service, appreciative of her nomination and eager to welcome her back, hopefully this summer.

Macias is one of two BGSU staff members now on active military duty; at least three others are in the military reserves. Roughly 64 students have been called to active duty while enrolled at BGSU in the past calendar year, and about 240 others are in the reserves or National Guard.

Roughly 46 percent of the nation's military strength is comprised of men and women in the guard and reserves, said Army Lt. Col. William DuPont, acting director for marketing and public affairs at ESGR. "That's why we need the support of the employer," he added, noting that on average, 200-250 bosses are recognized each month.

**IN BRIEF****Wendy Manning to give A&S Distinguished Faculty Lecture**

Wendy Manning, sociology, will deliver the first Arts & Sciences Distinguished Faculty Lecture of the 2003-04 academic year, Dean Donald Nieman has announced.

Manning will speak at 4 p.m. Feb. 3 in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Her talk—"Parental Cohabitation and Children's Well-Being"—examines an important and timely issue of general interest and is designed to bring the insights of a distinguished demographer to an audience of non-specialists. Faculty and students are encouraged to attend.

The past several decades have witnessed significant changes in American families, including a dramatic increase in the number of children growing up in cohabiting families. Curiously, we know very little about the impact of cohabitation on the well-being of these children. Drawing on her pioneering research on this subject, Manning will examine how parental cohabitation affects children's social and behavioral outcomes as well as their material well-being. Her talk will contribute to current debates about the relationship between parental marital status and children's welfare.

Manning is well suited to address this important topic. During the past decade, she has emerged as one of the nation's most highly regarded family demographers, and her work on cohabitation has helped shape a more nuanced understanding of this important phenomenon. A prolific writer, she has published almost two dozen articles in the leading journals in her field and has been principal investigator or co-investigator on grants totaling some \$5 million. She serves on the American Sociological Review's editorial board and the NIH panel that reviews proposals submitted to the Social Science, Nursing, Epidemiology, and Methods section.

**Kutzli shows her BG, holiday spirit**

Cathy Kutzli, residence life, was honored as the December 2003 recipient of the Classified Staff Spirit of BG Award. Along with a certificate of appreciation, she received a check for \$75.

Her nominator wrote, "Cathy was a valuable asset with the construction of the Classified Staff Council float that was entered into the annual Bowling Green Holiday Parade. She purchased and donated many supplies, including some of the Christmas trees that were placed on the float. She dressed up and marched in the parade and contributed more of her personal time to the cleanup. Cathy showed the true Spirit of BG, going above and beyond normal duties for the benefit of others."

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**Kasch's good spirit garners award**

Reaching out to assist others on and off campus, serving on University-wide committees and serving his department have all earned Richard Kasch, ITS, the Administrative Staff December Spirit of BG Award.

Kasch was nominated for his "endless willingness" to help others in need of ITS consulting services. He served on the BGSU Charitable Campaign Core Committee and was a cabinet member for the Family Campaign. He also served on an internal ITS service committee.

Kasch received \$75 and kudos from colleagues on Jan. 16.

Nomination forms for the January Spirit of BG Award are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 30. They are available on the Administrative Staff Council Web site at [www.bgsu.edu/organizations/ascl/awards.htm](http://www.bgsu.edu/organizations/ascl/awards.htm).

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**CALENDAR****Monday, Jan. 26**

**President's Lecture Series**, "Exploring the Human Experience: Beyond Differences," by Nancy Cantor, chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 3 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union.

**Tuesday, Jan. 27**

**Dorothy MacKenzie Price Piano Dedication Series**, by Spanish pianist Pedro Carbone, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**Movie**, "Radio," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by University Activities Organization.

**Wednesday, Jan. 28**

**Brown Bag Lunch**, "Fashion Frenzy: Observations from a Female Entrepreneur in BG," by Erin Norman, graduate student, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

**Men's Basketball** vs. Kent State, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

**Campus College Bowl Tournament**, 7-10 p.m., 314 Union.

**Faculty Artist Series**, a concert by bassoonist Katherine Freudigman and pianist Robert Satterlee, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**Thursday, Jan. 29**

**International Film Series**, "Lilja 4-Ever," a 2002 Russian/Swedish film by director Lukas Moodysson, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

**Friday, Jan. 30**

**Women's Swimming** vs. Miami Ohio, 5

p.m., Cooper Pool.

**CFDR Speakers Series**, "Young Children in Immigrant Families: Still 'Divided Fates?'" by Jennifer E. Glick, Arizona State University, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 207 Union.†

**Digital Arts Series Concert**, by the Meta Duo, on saxophones and electronics, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Sponsored by the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music.

**Movie**, "Radio," 11 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

**Saturday, Jan. 31**

**Women's Basketball** vs. Buffalo, 1 p.m., Anderson Arena.

**Women's Swimming** vs. Ball State, 1 p.m., Cooper Pool.

**Men's Basketball** vs. Marshall, 3:30 p.m., Anderson Arena.

**Women's Gymnastics** vs. North Carolina, 7 p.m., Eppler Center.

**Hockey** vs. Ohio State, 7:05 p.m., Ice Arena.

**Sunday, Feb. 1**

**Faculty Artist and Dorothy MacKenzie Price Piano Dedication Series**, piano concert by Robert Satterlee, 3 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**Movie**, "Radio," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

**Continuing Events**

Through Jan. 28

**Art Exhibit**, 3D stone, oil, photography and ceramics, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sundays, Union Galleries.